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LETTER DATED 8 SEPTEMBER 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT DATED 20 JULY 1995 BY THE STATE DUMA OF THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION CONCERNING ITS ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE RESUMPTION OF NUCLEAR TESTING BY FRANCE, AS WELL AS A STATEMENT DATED 6 SEPTEMBER 1995 BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION CONCERNING A NUCLEAR TEST CONDUCTED BY FRANCE

I have the honour to forward to you the text of a statement dated 20 July 1995 by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation concerning its attitude towards the resumption of nuclear testing by France, as well as the text of a statement dated 6 September 1995 by a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation concerning a nuclear test conducted by France.

Please take steps to have these statements distributed as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed) G. BERDENNIKOV
Ambassador

GE.95-63672 (E)

STATEMENT BY THE STATE DUMA CONCERNING ITS ATTITUDE TO THE RESUMPTION OF NUCLEAR TESTING BY FRANCE

(20 July 1995)

The State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation is extremely concerned at the statement made by French President J. Chirac regarding his plans to carry out a series of eight nuclear tests in September 1995 at Mururoa Atoll in the Pacific Ocean. As a country in the Asia-Pacific region, Russia regards such tests as dangerous in the fragile ecosystems of coral reefs.

In November 1990 Russia declared a unilateral moratorium on nuclear-weapon tests. In April 1992 France renounced nuclear testing. In the autumn of 1992 the United States and Great Britain joined the moratorium. Of the nuclear countries, only China did not join the four-Power moratorium.

By their moratorium, these four Powers are contributing to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons among countries which are technologically ready for nuclear-weapon production and testing. It is well known that for the first 10-12 years testing is conducted in the atmosphere and underground. The resumption of such testing by other countries would lead to a new burst of radioactive contamination of the Earth.

Wisdom in politics lies not in the consistent implementation of ill-considered decisions so much as in the courage required to reconsider such decisions.

We call on the President of France and the French Parliament to renounce nuclear testing and combine their efforts with those of other countries to keep the world nuclear-free.

STATEMENT BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

(6 September 1995)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation expresses profound regret at the fact that, despite the serious concern which has been expressed by the entire international community, including the Russian Federation, France has nevertheless embarked on the implementation of the programme of nuclear tests scheduled for the current year.

The breach of the current moratorium applied by four nuclear Powers constitutes a serious blow to the agreements which have successfully been reached recently in the field of disarmament and the strengthening of regimes for the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The resumption of testing runs counter to the spirit of the joint decisions reached at the conference in New York and directed towards the speedy cessation of all tests by all nuclear Powers. All this, of course, cannot but further exacerbate an already complex international situation.